

"When Christ is Lord of the Home"
Col. 3:18-21
6-19-16 Sun AM

Something is radically wrong with the American home today. The first institution God founded on earth was the home (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:1-6). As goes the home, so goes the church, the society, and the nation.

Paul addressed the various members of the family and pointed out the factors that make for a strong and godly home.

Q- What does the Christian home look like when Christ is Lord of that home? I want to share four family interactions that will be present when Jesus is Lord in the home...

I. The Wife Submits to Her Husband (3:18). (Worldview)

v. 18a: Paul did not address the wives first because they were the ones who needed this teaching the most!

Neither should we think of *submission* as "slavery" or "subjugation." The word comes from the military vocabulary and simply means "to arrange under rank."

If God did not have a chain of command in society, we would have chaos. When we don't abide by God's created order, anarchy ensues.

The fact that the woman is to submit to her **own** husband does not suggest that the man is better than the woman. It only means that the man has the responsibility of headship and leadership in the home.

Headship is not dictatorship or lordship. It is loving leadership. In fact, both the husband and the wife must be submitted to the *Lord* and to *each other* (Eph. 5:21). It is a mutual respect under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

v. 18b: The fact that the Christian wife is "as it is fit in the Lord" is not an excuse for selfish independence.

Just the opposite is true, for her salvation makes it important that she obey the Word and submit to her husband.

While it is true that in Jesus Christ "there is neither male nor female" in relation to salvation (Gal. 3:28), it is also true that there is a God-ordained roles and functions.

II. The Husband Loves His Wife (3:19). (Worldview)

v. 19a: The husband has the responsibility of loving his wife; and the word for “love” used here is *agape* — the sacrificing, serving love that Christ shares with His church.

In the parallel passage (Eph. 5:25), Paul made it clear that the husband must love his wife “even as [not like] Christ loved the church.” Jesus Christ gave His all for the church! He willingly died for us!

The measure of a man’s love for his wife is not seen only in gifts, words, deeds, and touch, but in acts of sacrifice and concern for her happiness and welfare.

v. 19b: Paul added a special word of warning for the husbands: “And be not bitter against them” (Col. 3:19). Husbands must be careful not to harbor ill will toward their wives because of something they did or did not do.

A “root of bitterness” in a home can poison the marriage relationship and give Satan a foothold (Eph.4:31; Heb.12:15).

Q- Where do we get the power to submit and love? When we have our hearts filled with the peace of Christ and the Word of Christ [v. 16].

III. The Children Obey Their Parents (Col. 3:20).

A great deal is being said today about the rights of children, and they *do* have rights. They have the right not to be mistreated and the right to be born into a dedicated Christian home where they will be raised in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

So children have rights, but they also have responsibilities; and their foremost responsibility is to obey. They are to obey “in all things” and not simply in those things that please them.

The child who does not learn to obey his parents is not likely to grow up obeying *any* authority. He will defy his teachers, the police, his employers, his pastor, and anyone else who tries to exercise authority over him.

The family that lives in an atmosphere of love and truth, that reads the Word of God, prays together, attends church together, will have an easier time discovering God’s will and pleasing the Lord.

IV. The Fathers Encourage Their Children (Col. 3:21).

This could be translated “parents,” as it is in Heb. 11:23. Paul made it clear that parents must make it as easy as possible for children to obey. “Provoke [exasperate or frustrate] not your children” is a commandment to parents.

Fathers and mothers should encourage their children, not discourage them.

Let me share 10 parenting tips:

1. One of the most important things parents can do is spend time with their children.
2. Parents also need to listen and be patient as their children talk to them and get feedback.
3. Pray with them, and seek to encourage them.
4. Help children develop their personalities, their gifts, and their skills, and their character.
5. Teach them about God and the things of God through every event in life.
6. Don't compare one child with another and thereby set up unnecessary competition in the home.
7. Don't use children as weapons for fighting against each other.
8. In our discipline, be consistent, fair, and measured.
9. Teach them to make a life not just a living.
10. You have heavenly responsibilities - Lead them to Christ then mature them in the faith - teach them about God, to love God and Jesus, and to be faithful to the local church.

When Christ is Lord of the home - Wives submit, husbands love, children obey, and fathers encourage.